

Spark Gap

Vol. 29, Issue 2, February 2012 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for twenty-eight Years*

MARC's First One Day TECH CLASS

It was like a Super Bowl of Amateur Radio. Nine MARC members spent all day February 11th teaching rules, regulations, technology and basics of Amateur Radio to a full house of prospective hams. Final tally showed 19 students, five of them elementary to middle school aged students. The rest were eager adults striving to earn their first ham radio license. Nine club members spent the entire day in a fast paced trip through twenty three Power Point modules explaining the basics of getting a Technician Class license.

Those sharing the podium were Steve Ellis-KK4BXD, Steve Carmean-K9DY, Bruce Tisdale-K9ICP, Rhonda Curtis- WS9H, Dave Daily-KA9LOT, Jay Chrisman-AA9YP and Bob LaGrange-N9SIU. Jack Parker-W8ISH coordinated the curriculum while club President Bob Jones-KC9NJM welcomed the crowd and handled logistics for the daylong event. Each student was advised to purchase the 2nd Edition of the Tech manual and review it before taking the class. This was the first time MARC has tried a one day Technician License class. Our late winter class usually takes ten weeks at two hours, one night a week before testing the students. This time we proved it can be done in nine hours. One student claimed he drove two hours from Bluffton, Indiana because the one day class fit his schedule.

Our thanks to club treasurer Jacki Fredericks-KI6QOG for handling the food logistics. Coffee, juice, donuts and pizza made up the primary menu for the day. Steve Curtis-ND9C helped with the food logistics. Lunch was served while learning about digital communications. There was little time for breaks during this marathon session. Eleven chapters had to be covered in eight hours.

By 4:00PM the class blurry eyed and ready to test. Rhonda Curtis coordinated the testing session. On board to help was Jim Smith-WV9W, Steve Brown-N9LC and most of the instructors who are VE's. The end result gave us a dozen new Tech licensed hams. The final count, nineteen students took the class, seventeen tested and twelve passed. Several had perfect or near perfect scores. That is a glowing testament to our instruction team and the quality of students that filled the room.

The team is now looking at another one day class later this fall. Our thanks to everyone who helped make this super teaching session as success. -w8ish



More pictures from the class:



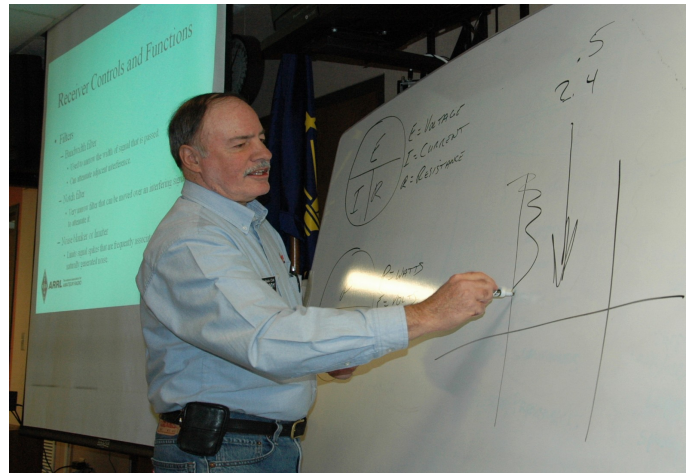
Steve Ellis -KK4BXD explains AC radio waves.



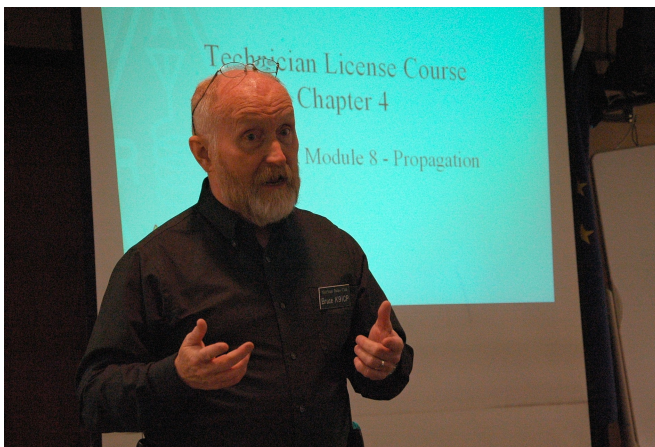
Brian & Joe



KK4BXD showing equipment.



K9DY talks filters.



Bruce K9ICP Chapter 4



Lots of test takers.

On Our MARC...

Amateur Radio is “growing” strong. As I write this column, there are nearly 748,000 active licenses across all classes of the amateur service. According to Hamdata, www.hamdata.com, we are growing at the average rates of 21 new techs, 14 generals, and 11 new extras, each day. Yes, that is daily! As of Feb. 7, 2012, we are up 12,637 licenses over the same date last year. That’s not just a growth spurt, that’s a gusher. If you want to see a comprehensive breakdown of amateur radio take a look at the Hamdata site, it is a wealth of information.

I am pleased that the MARC is playing a key role in the growth of our hobby. Each and every month our VEs stand ready to serve those who come to take their first steps into the world of ham radio and those who wish to upgrade their standing. It is through their personable and professional approach that a foundation for success is built; the success of those they test and ultimately the success of our organization. We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated group of VEs and we owe them our thanks.

On Feb. 11th, we will be taking another step in insuring the future of amateur radio by offering an all-day Tech Class. We have 17 people registered for the course. Hopefully, by day’s end we will have 17 new hams!

Bob - KC9NJM
President

INTEREASTED IN LEARNING MORSE CODE?



The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is considering implementing a beginning Morse code class in the near future. It is tentatively to be held at our usual meeting place, the E.O.C. training room, one evening a week for 4 weeks. Dates and times have not been determined. The class will be geared to no-code licensees, as well as slow-coders who want to brush up on their skills. If you would attend such a class, please send an **email to** k9dy@arrrl.net, so we may gauge the level of interest.

CONGATULATIONS !!!!!

The following HAMS in January passed the Technician test or upgraded their licience:

Christina KC9VGQ, Tech. – Anthony KC9VGR, Tech. – Christopher KC9VGT, Tech.

Gary KC9VGS, Tech. – Ann Marie KC9UZZ, Extra – Richard KC9VDO, General

ARRL Field Day: 2012 Field Day Packet Now Available

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 23-24, 2012! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. Field Day packets are now [available for download](#) and include the complete rules, as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations and a kit to publicize your event with the local press. A brief one-page flyer with basic "What is Field Day" information has also been included in this year's Field Day packet. Amateur Radio clubs and individuals are encouraged to reproduce this flyer as a handout for information tables.

..... ARRL Newsletter February 9, 2012



Steve K0DY signs off on test.

A big thanks to Jack Parker W8ISH for the pictures.

2012 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

February 2012

18 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

March 2012

17 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

April 2012

21 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

2012 Indiana Hamfests

02/25/12	Cabin Fever Hamfest , LaPorte Civic Auditorium, LaPorte IN, 7 AM till 1 PM CST, http://k9jsi.org/ , Info N9ROH@csinet.net
Feb 25	Brownsburg Hamfest , American Legion Post 331, Brownsburg IN, 6AM-3:30PM, Talk-in 147.015+, Contact: K9MSG dlucas002@indy.rr.com
03/03/12	Dugger Hamfest , Dugger Community Building, South Hicum Street (just off State Road 54) Dugger, IN 47848, http://www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html
March 10	Terre Haute Hamfest , Indiana State University Dede Activity Center, Terre Haute IN, http://w9uuu.org/
March 31	Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest , Community Building in Columbus, Indiana http://www.carcnet.org/
April 21	North Central Indiana Hamfest , Miami County 4-H Fairground, Miami County Road 200 North & Mexico Road, Peru IN http://www.nci-hamfest.net/
May 12	South Bend Indiana Hamfest , Elks Club, 3535 E. McKinley Avenue, South Bend, IN http://www.w9ab.org/
July 14	Indianapolis Hamfest , Camp Sertoma, Indianapolis, http://www.indyhamfest.com
Oct. 6	Hoosier Hills Hamfest , Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds, 11261 US Hwy 50 West., Bedford , http://www.w9qyq.org/
Nov. 17-18	Indiana State Convention, Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo , Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome, you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL Tone

Club Officers:
President: Robert Jones – KC9NJM
Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT
Secretary: Bruce Tisdale – K9ICP
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Jay Chrismon – AA9YP

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

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Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

